

1.

(1)

ADDRESS

ON THE

ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY

OF THE

FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

OF GLASGOW.



DELIVERED AT A CONVERSAZIONE HELD IN THE FACULTY HALL,
11TH MARCH, 1864.

BY WILLIAM WEIR, M.D.,
FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY.

GLASGOW:
Printed at the University Press,
BY GEORGE RICHARDSON, 55 GLASSFORD STREET.

THIS Address was not originally intended to be printed; but many of my friends who were present at the *Conversazione* when it was delivered, and others who were unavoidably absent, have expressed a wish to have an opportunity of reading it. Agreeably to their request, it is now presented in this more permanent form. I shall be much gratified if its perusal should afford them any useful information or amusement.

A few additions, and some notes are added to the original manuscript, and the latter part, relating to the Physicians, is somewhat extended.

W. W.

May, 1864.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/b21464467>

ADDRESS
ON THE
ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY
OF THE
FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
OF GLASGOW.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I had the honor of being President of the Faculty about sixteen years ago, I had occasion to look over and examine the very early minutes, containing the various transactions and business of the first years of its existence. Some of these are curious enough even as old records, but more so as detailing modes of management and points of professional practice and etiquette of former days, which may well be contrasted with those of the present time, and which cannot fail to be interesting to the modern medical practitioner. Ever since that time, I have occasionally employed myself in selecting from these old records, sufficient materials to form a history of the origin and progress of the Corporation. This labour of love, as I may well call it, has progressed very slowly, in consequence of my various public and private avocations, and several attacks of illness, and it does not yet embrace much more than one-half of the period of the existence of the Institution. Some years ago, I got authority from the Faculty to obtain what may be called a *translation* of the contents of the first minute book, which are written in a very cramp hand, and according to the old Scottish orthography, the ability to decipher and understand which is limited to a very few persons. This has been well and carefully done by our law adviser, Mr. WILLIAM HENRY HILL; and with this and the more recent minutes of the last and present centuries, and some

assistance from other sources, I have been enabled to draw up a history of the Faculty to the end of last century. The following brief outline, however, must be restricted to a few of the transactions of the first seventy years of the Faculty's existence.

The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons was incorporated by a Royal Charter granted by King JAMES the Sixth, in the year 1599. Previous to that date, it is not likely that the members of the medical profession were very numerous in Glasgow, and still less so that there was anything like a united body of practitioners, as was no doubt the case with many of the trades and handicrafts, and with the professions of Law and Theology. The number of inhabitants was very small—about 7000 only; and the medical profession, it is probable, consisted merely of a few regularly trained practitioners, and their servants or apprentices, who performed the minor operations of surgery under their directions. The well-educated and well-informed general medical practitioner did not come into existence for many years afterwards.

In Glasgow, as in other cities, the craftsmen or tradesmen, at a very early period, were associated into societies or corporations, having certain rights and privileges. Their corporate existence was derived either from the Archbishop of Glasgow, or the Magistrates of the burgh, who granted to them letters of deaconry, or seals of cause, in which was pointed out the manner the particular craft or trade was to be conducted; and rules and regulations were enacted for the guidance of the members, and in particular for providing funds for relieving and supporting decayed brethren, their widows and children. Indeed, this last seems to me to have been one great and chief point in their organization. The masons existed as a corporation in Glasgow so early as the year 1057, having been incorporated by Malcolm the Third in that year.* The other trades' corporations, took their rise in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Such trade societies existed in almost all cities and boroughs throughout Europe, from the most ancient times.

* "The Masons were incorporated by Malcolm the Third, under royal charter, " 'given at our Court at Fordie, 5th October, 1057,' by which His Majesty, " upon the recital of a petition by 'tho operative masons of the city of Glasgow,' " setting forth that 'the inhabitants of the city have been imposed upon by a " number of unskilled and insufficient workmen, that have come to work at our " cathedral,' 'ordained and granted to our petitionors to incorporate themselves " together in one incorporation.' The original charter,—'an old musty paper,'

Indeed, we read of an association of dyors in the days of Paul the apostle.

Now, I wish to remark here that the medical men—the Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the West of Scotland—although the latter were considered at that time handicraftsmen or tradesmen, do not appear to have been in this way originally associated together into a craft or corporation, either by themselves or in connection with any other body.

In ancient times, as you all know, in many cities on the Continent, and indeed throughout Europe, the business of the surgeon and the business of the barber were united in the same person, and hence they were often associated together into a Corporation by a Crown Charter or some other legal means, by which they acquired certain rights, privileges, and monopolies, like the other crafts or trades' corporations of the time. This was the case with the London College of Surgeons and the Edinburgh College of Surgeons; and abundance of proof can be had from old records of this ancient connection of the surgeons with the barbers. There is an old Act of the Town Council of Edinburgh, of date 1682, recommending to the Incorporation of *Surgeons*, or rather calling upon them, to supply the town with a sufficient number of persons well qualified to *shave and cut hair*, apparently showing the common belief that these were surgical operations; and in our own minutes also there are many statements showing the existence of the same connection at one period in Glasgow. It was very natural therefore, that the same thing should take place in Glasgow, which existed in other places, viz., that the surgeons and barbers should be *legally* united into one corporation; but, in reality, the course of procedure was somewhat different. The Surgeons alone had a Gift from the Crown in 1599, and the two bodies had no connection with one another until the year 1656, when they jointly obtained from the Magistrates a seal of cause constituting them one corporation, which union existed for about seventy years. In 1722, the partnership was dissolved, the surgeons fell back upon their original gift, the barbers upon their seal of cause, and they have ever since continued separate and distinct.

“ was, it is said, discovered about the commencement of the nineteenth century, “ in the charter chest of the Glasgow Freeman Operative Saint John's Lodge, “ and translated; and under it, this lodge claims precedence of all the lodges “ of Scotland, except the Grand Lodge.”—*A Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Trades' House of Glasgow*, by George Crawford, 1858, p. 27-8.

In contradiction to these facts, however, and agreeably to the popular opinion, I find it stated in a work entitled "Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Trades' House of Glasgow"—a work professing to give a historical account of all the corporations of the city, and which a historian would naturally consult for correct information—I find it stated in that work, that "the surgeons and "barbers were united under a charter granted by King JAMES, "dated 30th November, 1559; a gift to them, under the Privy "Seal in 1599, was ratified by Act of Parliament, 1672, Chap. 127, "Charles II."* The whole of this statement is quite erroneous; for in the first place, the charter mentioned as having been granted by King JAMES, on 30th November, 1559 to the surgeons and barbers, was never in existence; and secondly, the Gift under the Privy Seal in 1599 is granted to "PETER LOWE, surgeon, and ROBERT "HAMILTON, professor of medicine, and their successors;" and there is not a word in it about barbers from beginning to end. It speaks of "ignorant, unskilled, and unlearned persons, who "under colour of chirurgeons," &c., &c.; and it constitutes and "ordains "Mr. PETER LOWE our Chirurgeon, and Chief Chirurgeon "to our dearest son the Prince, with the assistance of Mr. ROBERT "HAMILTON, professoure of medicine, and their successors," &c. &c.; but not a word about barbers.†

No doubt, in the ratification of the Gift or Charter by the Parliament of Charles II., seventy years afterwards, while reciting the powers contained in the original gift, and while these are still continued to and vested in "the chirurgeons and professors "of medicine within the city of Glasgow, for the time, and their "successors" &c., they are now "extended in favour of the "present chirurgeons, apothecaries, and barbourers within the said "burgh of Glasgow, and their successors," &c.‡ The reason why the barbers were thus included in the Ratification, although not mentioned in the original charter was, that the Magistrates' Seal of Cause had incorporated the two Bodies sixteen years before. But what I wish to insist upon is, that the original Gift of King James, by which the Faculty has all along exercised, and still continues to exercise, its licensing powers, was granted exclusively to medical men, and conferred powers upon medical men alone: in short, that the Faculty was from the first a medical institution.

* Sketch of the Trades' House, p. 28.

† See Appendix No. 1.

‡ See Appendix No. 2.

It may be allowable, however, to infer from what I have stated in regard to the ratification of the Gift—and the inference is quite correct—that while the barbers were not included in the original Gift, the corporation, in course of time, did admit such as brethren, and granted to them certain restricted privileges, of which I have something more to say immediately.

I have been at some trouble in trying to search out this charter said to have been granted by King JAMES in 1559; but neither the original nor any copy can be found, either in the repositories of the Faculty, or in those of the Barbers. In the Inventory of Writts or Records belonging to the present Corporation of Barbers, there is copied out a “Grant or Seal of Cause” from the Magistrates of Glasgow to the Surgeons and Barbers, dated in 1656, in which reference is made to “the patent granted to us of the penult day of November, 1559, by the deceased King JAMES.” This, no doubt, is the document referred to in the “Sketch of the Trades’ House” already quoted. But it is quite evident that the date 1559 is a mistake for 1599, and that there was really no such gift in the former year, but that the patent spoken of was the charter granted, not to *us*, the Surgeons and Barbers, but to PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON, and their successors, &c.

It must be noticed, also, that the penult day of November, the date of the Faculty’s charter, is said to be that also of the gift of 1559, and in the petition to the Magistrates for the Grant or Seal of Cause above mentioned, the following words occur:—“That within these fifty-seven years the Patent granted to us of the penult day of November, 1559, by the deceased King JAMES,” &c. Now, this petition to the Magistrates is dated 1656, exactly fifty-seven years from the date of the Faculty’s Charter (1599), but in reality ninety-seven years from the date of the supposed Gift to the Surgeons and Barbers in 1559.* But what renders it undoubted that no Gift was granted or could be granted in 1559, is, that King JAMES was not born for seven years after that date: Queen MARY was married to DARNLEY in 1565, and JAMES was born, 19th June, 1566. No Patent, or Gift, or Charter, therefore, was ever granted by King JAMES to the Surgeons and Barbers of Glasgow, either in that year or indeed in any other.

* See Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, under date 16th August, 1656, for this Seal of Cause and Petition.

In point of fact, then, the Surgeons having found it necessary, during the first fifty years of their corporate existence, to admit some Barbers as brethren to practise their own "lawful calling," "without *meddling with anything further*," the two bodies considered it expedient to apply to the Magistrates, in 1656, for a Seal of Cause constituting them one Corporation. By Minute, of date 4th August, 1656, the Faculty "agree that ane Seal of Cause "or letter of Deaconry be purchased from the Town Council in "favour of the Facultie, *without prejudice of the old Gift granted to "them by the deceast King James*, and this to be allenerlie in "favouris of the Chirurgians and Barbouris." This was accordingly obtained. A copy will be found in the Burgh Records of the City, of date 16th August, 1656, and I have ascertained that the original is in possession of the Incorporation of Barbers, having been, I presume, retained by them on the separation of the two bodies in 1722. No copy is in our minute book. In the Treasurer's account for the year 1657, there is a charge of 12lb. 7s. 8d. (about £1 1s. 5d. sterling) for the "New Seal of Arms," as it is there called.

Mr. PETER LOWE, who may be considered the founder of the Faculty, was a very famous surgeon during the latter half of the sixteenth century, and practised in Glasgow for some years previous to his decease. In the second edition of his work, published in London in 1612, entitled "A Discourse of the whole Art of Chyrvrgerie," he styles himself "PETER LOWE, Scottishman, Doctor in the Facultie "of chirurgerie at Paris, and ordinary Chirurgeon to the French "King and Navarre," and he seems to have had very great practice, both civil and military, as may be inferred from what he says in his address "to the friendly reader" of this work, from which I quote a few sentences:—"I impart to you my labours, "hidden secrets, and experiments by me practised, and daylay put "in vse, to the great comfort, ease and delight of you, and such as "have had occasion to vse my helpe in FRANCE, FLAUNDERS, and "elsewhere, the space of 22 years: thereafter being Chirurgian "maior to the Spanish Regiments at PARIS, 2 years; next follow- "ing the French King my Master in the warres 6 years, where "I tooke commoditie to practise all points and operations of "chirurgerie. Vpon which occasion I endeaoured myselfe to "collect my practises at vacant houres, into this Booke according "to the opinion of the ancient and learned practitioners in Phisick "and Chirurgerie, in such plaine termes as I could, for the vse of

“ the common sort ; which now I doe offer to thee newly corrected
 “ and enlarged for thy greater comfort.”

This work does not appear to have been the first or only production of Dr. LOWE, for, in the same address, he speaks of his
 “ Treatise of the helpe of Women in their Infantment, with the
 “ curation of such diseases as happen to maydens, and married
 “ women, with the treatise called the POORE MAN’S GUIDE, which
 “ are workes esteemed by the learned, who have seene them most
 “ necessarie for the commonwealth.”

To his book on the “ Art of Chirurgie ” there is a quaint and curious dedication “ to my very Worshipfull, learned, and well-
 “ experimented good friends, GILBERT PRIMROSE, Sergeant Chirur-
 “ gian to the King’s Maiestie ; JAMES HARVIE, Chiefe Chirurgiane
 “ to the Queene’s Maiestie ; those of the Worshipfull Companie of
 “ Chirurgians in London and Edenborough, and all such well-ex-
 “ perimented men in this Kingdome who are licensed to professe
 “ the Divine art of Chirurgie, PETER LOWE wishes all happiness
 “ of Life.”

In this dedication he declaims at great length, and in grand style, against all Quack Doctors and such “ as do their worke vn-
 “ skilfully,”...“ like as cosoners, quacksalvers, charlittans, witches,
 “ charmers, and divers other sorts of abusers ; whose names I will
 “ for the present omit, in hope they will desist, their own consciences
 “ accusing them,” &c. These “ abusers ” he classes under nine
 “ divers sorts,” whom he denounces as poisoning and killing the
 “ lieges in “ divers ways.” ... “ Such is the iniquitie of time that
 “ abusers are commonly overseene by such as ought to punish
 “ them ; in such sort that one blind guides another, and most
 “ commonlie fall both to the ditch. In the meane time they
 “ are permitted to vse charmes, lyces, execrable oaths, mortiferous
 “ poyson, fallacious and vncertaine experiments, whereby they
 “ destroy both friend and foe, euer detracting the true professors
 “ of the Art.”

He then goes on to relate the exact history of how he obtained from King JAMES the Letter of Gift or Charter which established the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. “ It
 “ pleased his Sacred Maiestie to heare my complaint about some
 “ fowerteeno yeeres agoe, vpon certaine abusers of our Art, of diuers
 “ sorts and ranks of people, whereof we have good store, and all
 “ things sayling, outthrifts, and idle people doe commonly meddle

“ themselves with our Art, who ordinarilly doe passe without either
 “ tryall or punishment. The matter being considered, and the
 “ abuse weighed by his Maiestic and Honourable councell, thought
 “ not to bee tolerated; for the which I got a priviledge vnder his
 “ highnes priuie seale, to try and examine all men vpon the Art of
 “ Chirurgerie, to discharge and allow in the west parts of Scotland,
 “ who were worthy or vnworthy, to professe the same.” He finishes
 this dedication with the following appeal: “ Now, worshipfull bre-
 “ thren, in respect of those enormities, with diuers moc, which
 “ were long to repeat, I doubt not but all yee who are learned and
 “ true professors, hauing accessse, and credit with his Maicstie, will
 “ seeke and obtaine such priviledges, and lawes to correct and
 “ punish abusers, and neither for request nor lucre, to admit any
 “ such ignorant abusers to professe our Art,” &c. “ From my house
 “ in *Glasgow*, the 20 day of *December*, in the year of our Lord God
 “ 1612.”

Dr. LOWE in this manner obtained from King JAMES the Sixth a Charter or Letter of Gift in favour of himself and Mr. ROBERT HAMILTON, “professoure of medicine,” granting unto them and their successors, in-dwellers in Glasgow, certain rights and privileges, set forth at large in the Charter. They were authorised to summon all persons professing or using the art of surgery within the counties of Lanark, Ayr, Renfrew, and Dumbarton—to examine them, grant testimonials to the qualified, and to prohibit the unqualified—to visit every hurt or murdered person, &c., &c. The power is also given of challenging, pursuing, and inhibiting all those practising *medicine* without “ane testimonial of ane famous University where medicine is taught,” or the leave of the “chief medicinaire” of the King and Queen, and also to sight or examine all drugs sold in the city, &c.* The charter was thus conferred on a doctor of chirurgery, and a professor or a practitioner of medicine, with power to control the practice of medicine, and to examine drugs; and from the earliest period the Institution was composed of practitioners both in Medicine and Surgery.

The first minute of the Faculty bears date 3rd June, 1602, and sets forth that, within the Black Friars Kirk of Glasgow, Mr. PETER LOWE, and Mr. ROBERT HAMILTON compeared “before
 “ Sir GEORGE ELPHINSTONE of Braithwood, Knight, Provost, JAMES

* See Charter, Appendix No. 1.

“FORRET, JOHN ANDERSON, and WILLIAM ANDERSON, Bailies “thereof,” presented the letter of gift of King JAMES, and obtained the authority of the Provost and Bailies to exercise the rights contained therein, and to conjoin with them, as brethren, other parties also named in this minute, viz: ADAM FLEMING, ROBERT ALLASONE, WILLIAM SPANG, THOMAS THOMSONE, JOHN LOWE, and JOHN HALL. These six persons appear to have been all who joined PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON at this first meeting, when it may be considered that the association was instituted. And “the said Mr. PETER and Mr. ROBERT was content of thir aine consents, “notwithstanding of thir nomination of gift, that ilk yeir, ance at “Mickelemes, the brethren” should meet, and whoever had the most votes should be “elected to remaine Visitor for ane yeir there-“after, and so furth yearly in all tyme coming.” And the said Mr. PETER LOWE and Mr. ROBERT HAMILTON agreed that “the “foirsds persons, brethren of craft, presently admittit by them, “shall have power and libertie to use thir craft and calling as free “as themselves, efter their kneulage,” who on their part solemnly agreed to “econcure, assist, and had hand to” the said PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON. At the same time, ROBERT HAMILTON was elected deacon till Michaelmas first, and he nominated ROBERT HERBERTSON, notary, as their clerk, and GEORGE BURNET, officer, who gave their oaths, &c. In this manner, with due legal formality and official dignity, the Corporation was inaugurated by the Provost and Bailies of the City.

In all trades’ eorporations, or crafts instituted in Glasgow, the Preses or ehairman of the assoeiation is named “deaeon,” execept in the corporation of maltmen, and in our own, in both which he is denominated “Visitor.” He is so named in our eharter, and perhaps it might be because it was a duty placed upon him to visit the various drug shops, and examine the medicines to ensure their being of good quality; and the maltmen would require to perform a similar duty, in regard to the malt which was used in almost every family at that early period, in making their beer or ale. In our own corporation, this name was invariably used on eleetion days, but in many of the minutes during the first eentury, the term deaeon, and sometimes bailie, is employed to designate the ehief office-bearer; and the two titles, visitor and deaeon, seem to have been used indiscriminately.

This first meeting was merely a preliminary one to institute the association. Aceordingly, two others were held on the 17th and

22nd of the same month of June, 1602, at which much important business was transacted. Other functionaries besides the visitor were considered necessary, and Mr. PETER LOWE, WILLIAM SPANG, ROBERT ALLASON, and ADAM FLEMING, were elected quartermasters. At the third meeting, on 22nd June, acts were passed regarding the admission of new members, the examination which they were to undergo, and the fees that were to be paid, these being different for burgesses' sons, apprentices of members, and strangers respectively. Like every other corporation, or merchants' or trades' guild, members' sons and their apprentices entering the Faculty had the advantage of admission to all the privileges of the association for a smaller entrance fee than strangers were required to pay. This was continued for many years, but was given up more than a century ago; whereas, in all the trades' corporations, and even in the Faculty of Procurators, something of the kind continues to exist up to the present time.

There were also acts passed at this meeting, "anent the admission of apprentices and buiking," and regarding the manner and subjects of examination. From these we learn that our ancestors, though not insisting upon attendance on lectures, on the part of the candidates for admission—none of which, indeed, then existed—did insist upon a very long practical training or apprenticeship, and a very strict examination, not once merely, but at three different periods during the currency of the apprenticeship. The candidate had to serve seven years; and the minute states that "ilk prentise shall be examined after the first three years compleating, upon his airt of craft, and to pay" so much at that time, and so much to each examiner; "and the Visitor to admonish the examiners whereon they shall examine; and at the five years' end to be examined lykewise, and to pay alyk; and at the seven years' end, when he passes master, to be examined upon the holl particulars of his airt, of the definitions, causes, signes, accidents, and cures of all diseases perteaning to his airt, with the composition of, nature, and fit medicaments as shall be requisite; paying at the tyme for ane dinner, ten pound" (16s. 8d. stg.)

This system of apprenticeship, long discontinued in Glasgow and other parts of Scotland, and gradually going out even in England, there is no doubt, was attended with many advantages, when properly exercised by master and apprentice, and kept strictly to medical matters. The apprentice, besides compounding and dispensing

medicines, by which he learned what is comprehended in *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, underwent from his master a regular training and a long course of what may be well called clinical instruction, visiting patients along with him, and in course of time by himself, prescribing and often performing the smaller operations of surgery, so as to become a well-informed practitioner. I do not know if there be any mode so well calculated as this is, if carried out properly, to give the pupil a practical knowledge of his profession. Many an eminent surgeon has begun his career in this way, devoting a year or two after the termination of his apprenticeship to attending hospitals and classes, in order to perfect him in the theory or science of Medicine. From the signs of the times and the published opinions and proposals on the part of a few of the eminent men of the present day, there is some appearance as if we were about to return in a certain measure to this ancient practical mode of learning the profession, at least in so far as to restrict very much the mere hearing of lectures on the part of the student, and trusting much more to strict practical or clinical instruction.

That these examinations were really *bona fide*, is abundantly proved from the minutes. The last examination was not finished at one sitting. The candidate had to show his acquaintance with drugs, and his ability to compound; and afterwards he was ordered to discourse on a future day before all the members, upon some medical and surgical subject—as to describe the stomach and intestines, the nervous system, the liver and its functions, &c. The Pharmaceutical examination was often very complicated and difficult, such as few but professed chemists and druggists of the present day could undertake to pass through successfully. For example, by minute, 19th June, 1658, DAVID SPEIRS, petitioned to be put upon trial and admitted to practise Pharmacy “with that part of chirurgerie as drawing of blood and application of cauterie,” when he was ordered to make up the following compounds: “Consectio hamech, Pilulæ Cochir Majores, Emplestrum de mucilagibus, Lineimentum mici, and Trochei albi rasis, at the sight of THOMAS LOCKHART and ARCHIBALD GRAHAM;” and for blood drawing and application of cauterie the minute states, “that first before he be admittit thereto, he practise the same before two chirurgeons of the Faculty, and upon a sufficient report they would admit him to the exercise thereof.” This was truly a practical

examination both in Surgery and Pharmacy. DAVID SPEIRS was found deficient in the surgical department, but quite competent in the pharmaceutic, and was licensed accordingly.

The Faculty went on in this way for a number of years, licensing those who came forward, looking after irregular practitioners, citing them to appear for examination, and admitting new members when found qualified—some as surgeons, some as apothecaries—as they were bound by the charter to do; and some as Barbers to practise “their ain calling.” In the very early years there are not many minutes on record, except those of the annual meetings at Michaelmas, when the Visitor and other office-bearers were elected.

It may be remarked here that Mr. PETER LOWE, the founder of the Faculty, was never elected Visitor. It might naturally have been thought that the Father of the Corporation—one whose name is first mentioned in the Charter, and who, there is no doubt, was the chief person concerned in procuring from King JAMES the letter of Gift—would have had this honour conferred upon him, if not at the very first election, at least at a very early period. But it does not appear that he ever held the office of Visitor, although he and likewise ROBERT HAMILTON are both spoken of in the Gift under the term “Visitors.” The last time his name is mentioned in the minutes is the 22nd September, 1609, when he was elected one of the Quartermasters. No notice is taken of his death; but it cannot have occurred till some time after 20th December, 1612, as the dedication of his work on surgery, formerly noticed, bears that date. The date upon his monument, still existing in the High Church burying-ground, is also 1612, but it is quite possible he may not have died for several years after that time.

That Dr. PETER LOWE was a famous surgeon, and had an European reputation, is proved by the distinguished medical appointments he held, and by the numerous eulogia, in prose and verse, which were composed by various authors after his death, in praise of himself and his works. It may be further mentioned, that he was one of the arbiters or commissioners appointed to settle the differences between the Merchants’ and Trades’ ranks in Glasgow, the result of which commission was the letter of guildry, issued in 1604, under which the Merchants’ and Trades’ Houses act till the present day.

In the minute book of the burgh of Glasgow, under date 26th May, 1610, it is recorded that Dr. PETER LOWE was paid the sum

of "fortie pundis money (£3 6s. 8d.), partlie for his fey, and partlie
 " for the expensis maid by him in bowelling [inspeeting or perhaps
 " embalming] of the Laird of Houstoun, lait Provest." And fur-
 ther, a warrant is directed to the clerik to pay Mareoun Stewart
 " 37lb. 10s. (£3 2s. 6d. sterling), as for vyne and uther expensiss
 " furnist and maid be hir the tyme of the said Provestis bowelling."*

The tomb of Dr. Lowe still remains in the old burying-ground of
 the High Church, and the following inscription, although not very
 legible, can with some diffieulty be made out:—

1612.

M.

P. L.

Stay, passenger, and view this stonc,
 For under it lyes such a one
 Who cured many while he leived
 So gratus, he no man grieved;

Yea, when his Physick's force oft failed,
 His pleasant purpose then prevailed:
 For of his God he got the grace
 To live in mirth and die in peace.
 Heaven has his soule—his corpse this stono;
 Sigh, passenger, and see begone.

Ah me! I gravel am and dust,
 And to the grave deshend I must:
 Oh! painted picce of living clay.
 Man, be not proud of thy short day.

This is now the property of the Faeculty, having been acquired
 thirty years ago from Mr. GRAY of Carntyne, to whom, or to his
 father, it had been bequeathed by the last male deecendant of the
 Doctor. Some further information in regard to Dr. Lowe, I have
 received through the kindness of our present Visitor, Dr. FLEMING,
 which was eommunicated to him by the same gentleman, now the
 Rev. JOHN HAMILTON GRAY, Rural Dean of Chesterfield. From this
 gentleman's letter to Dr. FLEMING I quote a few sentenees:—

* Up to the end of the seventeenth century, the embalming of the doad seems
 to have been sometimes practised in Scotland; for of date 13th March, 1688.
 JOHN MILLAR, apothecary, from Kilmarnock, is licensed "to practise the
 " opening of veins by the advice of Physicians, the application of cauteries,
 " and the embalming of corpses."

“ Dr. LOWE’s grandson, or great-grandson, probably the former, “ was PETER LOWE, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh, and he married a sister “ of my great-grandfather, the daughter of JOHN GRAY, of Dal- “ marnock and Carntyne, who died 150 years ago. The issue of “ this marriage was, (1), a son, WILLIAM LOWE, who had valuable “ property in America, which he lost in consequence of his loyalty “ to the British Government during the American War—he died, “ without issue, towards the end of the last century; and (2), a “ daughter, ANABELLA, who died unmarried. These were, I believe, “ the last descendants of the Doctor. This WILLIAM LOWE left to “ my family his ancestor’s tombstone and burial place, which I sold, “ in 1833, to the Faculty of Surgeons in Glasgow. I considered “ that, on the whole, they, as being the Doctor’s children in one “ sense, were the best entitled to be the guardians of his mortal “ remains. I do not know anything of the early life of Dr. LOWE. “ After his fame as a medical man had risen high, he held some “ most distinguished situations, having been Physician to HENRY “ IV., King of France, and afterwards to HENRY STEWART, eldest “ son of King JAMES the First of Great Britain.”

Dr. PETER LOWE married HELEN, daughter of the Rev. DAVID WEEMS, the first minister of Glasgow after the Reformation. After Dr. LOWE’s death, she married WALTER STIRLING, Bailie, and Dean of Guild of Glasgow, by whom she had several sons. The STIRLINGS of Glasgow, WILLIAM, GEORGE, &c., are descended in a direct line from this lady.*

I may mention further, as worthy of notice, that by minute of Faculty, of date 29th June, 1636, it appears that, out of respect to the deceased Mr. PETER LOWE, Doctor of Surgery, and the “rather “ because he was the principal procurer to the vocation of their “ letters of visitatione under the Privie Seal, they have admitted “ JOHN LOWE, lawful son of the said PETER LOWE, freeman, who “ has given his oath conform to order; this for the benefit of his “ children.” And in the minute of 4th January, 1652, it is stated that “after mature deliberation (the said JOHN LOWE present), “ ratifies and approves the former act in all points, notwithstanding “ the declination thereof, he paying quarter accounts in time “ coming.” This son of Dr. LOWE was probably not a medical man,

* Pagan’s Glasgow Past and Present, vol. 3, p 277; McUre’s History of Glasgow.

his admission being apparently without any examination, and it being stated to be "for the benefit of his children." How it happens that there is a period of sixteen years between the dates of these two minutes, cannot well be explained, unless it be that JOHN LOWE, although elected a member in 1636, was not admitted, or did not take his seat until 4th June, 1652.

What was the exact status of Mr. ROBERT HAMILTON, designated "Professor of Medicine" in the Gift, may admit of difference of opinion. Some, I know, have thought that he was a physician, regularly educated, and having the degree of M.D. from a University, differing from Mr. PETER LOWE, who is designated doctor of surgery. Others, however, suppose Mr. HAMILTON to have been a person legally practising medicine in the city, but standing higher than the common surgeon or barber surgeon, and having sufficient status to have his name inserted in the original charter. I should be glad to find sufficient evidence that he was a regularly educated physician, possessing the degree of doctor in medicine. During the whole of the first twenty years of the Institution, Mr. HAMILTON was alternately Visitor and one of the quarter masters. His name appears in every minute of the election of office-bearers, and he seems to have been for many years the chief man among all the brethren, and the prop and stay of the Corporation. There is no notice taken of his decease, although he probably died about the year 1628. He held the office of Visitor from 1602 till 1610 inclusive, except 1606, and again in 1620 and 21. In all the other years he was one of the quarter masters or box masters up to 1628, after which there is no mention of him in our records. From this last year, however, there is a JAMES HAMILTON, and also a JOHN HAMILTON, probably sons of the first member, the former of whom appears as Visitor or other office-bearer onwards to the year 1660.

One of the six parties who entered at the first meeting of the Corporation, viz. : WILLIAM SPANG, is named in the 5th Article of the Charter as "WILLIAM SPANG, Apothecary," who was appointed to sight or examine all the drugs sold in the city, to secure their being of proper quality. His name is found in several of the minutes of the burgh of Glasgow, in which he is mentioned as being paid by the town for medicines supplied to the diseased poor. It merits notice, therefore, that the powers and privileges contained in the letter of Gift, or Charter, granted by King JAMES the Sixth, were

originally vested in a Physician, a Surgeon, and an Apothecary, representing the three branches of the healing art.*

About the year 1612, there is written out at full length, for the first time, a code of rules and regulations for the management of the Corporation, some of which appear to be the originals of the laws of the Faculty, in force at the present time. The first of these enactments relates to the attendance of the members on the sick poor, only, however, when required to do so.† This service, there is no doubt, the brethren of the Corporation continued conscientiously to perform in the most direct manner, at least up to the end of last century; and from that date to the present time, it has been indirectly performed, inasmuch as one or more of the members have attended once every week to vaccinate, gratuitously, the children of all who choose to apply. On the erection of a Poors' House or Town's Hospital in Glasgow, the members of the Corporation attended the sick poor in that Institution, and also at their own houses, for many years; indeed, up to the appointment of District Surgeons in 1816. The same was done, also, for the patients in the Royal Infirmary, from the time of the opening of that Institution in 1794, to the year 1808, when a small salary was first given to the Physicians and Surgeons. It may be truly said, therefore, that the brethren have faithfully performed the gratuitous duty imposed upon them by the original letter of Gift—"to visit and give counsel to poor disiasit folks, gratis."

It may be mentioned, however, that from various minutes in the burgh records, it appears that sums of money were frequently paid to Surgeons and Apothecaries for attending the sick poor, and providing them with medicines, both before and after the institution of the Faculty. Such are often called "pensions," as if they were yearly payments. These minutes are very curious, and, as relating to medical matters, I shall quote a few.

Our ancestor, PETER LOWE, was paid "for his pensioun, in anno 1608, addetit be the toun to him, conforme to ane warrand, 53lbs. vi.s. and 8d. (about £4 8s. 10d., sterling.)"

* Attention was here directed to the portraits of these three founders of the Faculty, which are placed at the east end of the Faculty Hall.

† "Imprimis, conforme to ther Letters of Gift and privilege granted to them be his Majestie, ilk first day of the month they visit ye puire (Gratis), gif they have intelligence qr the puir sick creature is, and be requirit to that effect."

"26th July, 1647.—The said day geivis power and commisionc
 "to the Deacon Conveinar and JOHN GRAHAME to meit with Doctor
 "M'CLUIR, and aggrie with him to attend the visitatione of the
 "tounc for ane monethe to come, and to give him ten dollars for
 "bygane service, to incuradge him."

"18th Sept., 1647, JOHNE HALL is to get fourtie pundis in satis-
 "factiounc of all his bygane paynes in sichting and visiting such
 "as disaisit of the pestilence."

"30th December, 1648.—The said day appoints Mr. ARCHIBALD
 "GRAHAME, ypothecar, to be admitted burges and Gild brother
 "without payment of ony fynes, and the benefite thair of is to
 "redound to his bearnes, with this provision, that he visie the
 "seik poore of the towne, and helpe them in all things relateing
 "to his calling, they paying for the medicaments."

"10th August, 1685.—The Treasurer is ordered to pay JOHN
 "HALL, younger, Chirurgion, the soun of fourtie pundis Scots, for
 "cureing of JAMES HAMILTON, son to umqll JAMES HAMILTON
 "wryter, of ane whyte scabbed head, being ordained to be cured
 "be the Provost, quhilk sowme shall be allowed, &c." And he is
 "further ordered to pay "JOHN HALL, elder, the soun of fifty-fye
 "pounds, two shillings Scots, for dressing the lait Argyle, Rum-
 "hold, Mr. THOMAS ARCHER, Mr. LOCKHART, and ane poore Dutch-
 "man the tyme they were prisoners in the tolbooth, being all
 "wounded, and for furnishing drogs to thame, conforme to the
 "compt." These parties had been wounded very likely in the
 "disputes that took plaece when James the Second of England
 "attempted to coerce the Scots in regard to their mode of religious
 "worship.

From the second enaetment it would appear that the Visitor or
 the quarter masters were expected to give instruction (lectures?)
 on Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmaey; * and the third alludes to
 the duties of the Inspectors of Drugs, the appointment of whom is
 still kept up by the Faculty, although their duties have been long
 in abeyance.† The fourth establishes a small tax upon the more

* "2. As also that the deacon or one of the quartermasters teach upon
 "medicine, chirurgerie, or apothecarie the nature of herbs, droges, and such
 "lyk, as shall be thought expedient by the brethrene of said vocation."

† "3. Becaus ther are sundrie who sells drogs within this Brugh, and has not
 "sufficient drogs, that ilk qrter of yeir once the visitor with his masters visit the
 "sufficiencie thereof conforme to the article contained in Bur charter."

fortunate of the brethren for "helping of the poor's necessities," according to the amount of their practice. The tax was very small, only at the rate of 10d. in the £100 stg.*

It has been supposed by many that the early members of the Faculty, or the greater number of them were barbers. This is a mistake. The first members were some of them Physicians and some Surgeons, fully educated men, but they soon found it necessary or expedient to admit a certain number of barbers, in order that they might perform the minor operations of Surgery, which the well-informed medical practitioner considered it "*infra dig.*" to perform himself. Such however, were always admitted *qua* barbers only. Indeed it had been found necessary to pass an act for their admission.

"22d June, 1602.—It is statute and ordained that barbers, being "a pendie of Chirurgerie shall pay at their admission" so much, and "not to meddle with anything farther belonging to chirurgerie "under the pain of five pund (8s. 4d. stg.) *toties quoties*. In all the minutes where barbers are admitted these same words are used; and it is worthy of note that in three different minutes in the years 1633, 36, and 42 they are written out by themselves at the end of the minute book, and not introduced in the regular order, apparently as if such admissions were something exceptional, or out of the ordinary rule. In one of these the words used are "James Braidwood "is buikit barber, viz., to use only in time coming, barberising, "polling, &c., without further privilege or points belonging to their "calling," &c. Again, the regularly educated Surgeon is said to be admitted after examination as "professor of chirurgerie," and sometimes as "ane simple chirurgian." "John Hall, Chirurgian "is admitted freeman to the calling as Professor of Chirurgerie." "Adam Gray is admitted freeman as ane simple Chirurgian with "the calling," &c.

What I have stated will I think shew plainly enough that the Barbers were not recognised as an integral part of the Corporation, but rather that they were admitted mainly with a view to do the more menial and the less important duties, in order that the poor

* "4. For helping of the poores necessities, and increse of ther airt and tread "to be ane help to the common box and common chairges, that ilk brother of "craft give 2 pennies of ilk 20 lb. that they shall win of frei yeir, for any cuir, "that comes to them ilk month oure to pay the saming according to condishendence."

might be attended to in their trifling complaints, and the higher grades of the profession preserved from degrading offices.

The "air of Barborie," which is frequently mentioned in the minutes, was apparently at this early period not restricted merely to shaving, dressing the hair and making wigs, but really included the dressing of simple wounds, bleeding, tooth drawing, &c. These last mentioned however, were performed, or always intended to be performed, under the direction only of a Physician or Surgeon legally qualified.

The first mention of the admission of an apothecary, distinct from surgeon, is in 1614, when "GABRIEL SYESERF, pothecar, is "admittit freman and brother of craft, and he to use his ain "calling;" and for two hundred years after this date, the Faculty continued to grant licenses to practise pharmacy alone. This, however, has been long discontinued, although I am not sure, seeing the full powers the Faculty possess, that they have not fallen short of their duty in allowing any one to practise as a chemist and druggist without ascertaining, by examination, that he is properly qualified to do so.

From several minutes about the year 1654, there appears to be no doubt that parties were licensed to practise medicine and pharmacy without surgery, the Corporation exercising the powers and privileges of a College of Physicians as well as a College of Surgeons. The words used are: "To practise pharmacy and medicine," and "at no time hereafter to use or exercise any point of chirurgery." From this it is evident that some were admitted for medicine, and some for surgery. It may be said that these persons were licensed merely as Pharmacians, the word medicine here meaning that they were authorised to sell and dispense drugs or medicine. But it must be noticed that the minutes bear that they are licensed to "*practise medicine*," and they speak of this "*license to practise*," which would scarcely have been used had the parties been merely druggists or so-called apothecaries, a class at that time, it is to be presumed with very little education, and not likely to pass with success any kind of examination in regard to practice. In a subsequent minute of date 5th Sept., 1673, John LANG applies to be admitted to the practice of chirurgery, "ho always not meddleing "with the *practice of medicine* to any person within the bounds of "the Physician's inspection," showing that there was at that time a distinction drawn by the Faculty between Surgery and Medicine.

So early as the year 1612, the Faculty in admitting members evidently acted upon this distinction. The minute of 9th May, 1612, bears that "Andro Mill is fund qualifit to profes the airt of "chirurgerie, and *sic utters of the airt of medicine* as he has knolage "of, be Mr. Robert Allasone, Visitor, and his qrtermasters, and hes "given on sufficient tryl thereuntill, and therefor they have "admittite the said Andro freeman with them," &c.*

It has sometimes been asked at what period the Corporation assumed the name of Faculty, seeing that it is not mentioned in the original Charter. Now, it is highly probable that the Institution was so designated from its very origin, as the charter seems to have been framed in some measure after the model of that of the Faculty of Surgery, at Paris, as there is no doubt that Mr. PETER LOWE was a member of that Body. If so, it was quite natural that the New Corporation erected by the Letter of Gift granted by King James, should take the same name of Faculty rather than College. Besides, it was a common name at that period both in England and Scotland for learned Corporate Bodies. The College of Physicians in London was incorporated by HENRY the Eighth, under the name of "The President and College or Commonality of the Faculty of Physic in London," and throughout the Charter they are styled "the said Faculty." The Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh, and of Procurators, Glasgow, both ancient Corporations, illustrate the common acceptance of this name in those days. Although in many of the early minutes the terms "calling," "craft," "corporation," "vocation," are often used indiscriminately, the designation, "Faculty," is also repeatedly used. So early as 1620 to 1630 in various minutes we find the Corporation named the "Faculty" or "Facultie" simply, and often the "Faculty of Chirurgeans," and in minute of date 26th May, 1654, the name "Faculty of Chirurgeans and Physicians" is employed. It may also be

* The whole history of the Corporation proves that it has always possessed and exercised certain rights as respects Medicine, as well as Surgery. The fourth regulation of the Charter vests in the Corporation powers with regard to the profession of a Physician, as distinguished from a Surgeon: and at a very early period, the Courts of Law ordered that the Faculty should call before them "all and sundrie persons whatever professing or using the saidis airtes of Chirurgearie or Medicine within our said burgh and baronie of "Glasgow," &c., "charging all and sundrie the saidis personis, qu'tsomever, "professing or using the saidis artis of Chirurgiario or Medicine, to desist

mentioned that in no part of these records, even the very earliest, is the Body ever in a single instance named or spoken of as a Corporation or Craft or Calling of "Surgeons and Barbers," or of "Barber-Surgeons." Indeed from all that can be gathered from the very early minutes, the Barbers do not appear to have ever been, properly speaking, *Members of Faculty*, but more correctly Licentiates, being licensed to exercise the calling of Barbers only, and being under the surveillance of the Corporation of Surgeons. They appear to have been always kept strictly to their own department.

From the Collector's Accounts of the various years in the 17th century, many very curious items might be extracted, but which it is impossible to quote on this occasion. It is plain, however, that even at this early period, when the funds were very limited, the Faculty gave charity in many instances. Indeed almost at every meeting, small sums were ordered to be paid to poor persons. This beneficence was not confined to their own members, nor even to persons of the medical profession; and was exercised in the same liberal manner up to the end of last century, when it was diminished, in consequence of the establishment of the Widows' Fund connected with the Corporation, rendering indiscriminate charity no longer necessary.

About the middle of the century, the first regular pensioner was enrolled. This was CATHERINE SPANG, daughter of the deceased WILLIAM SPANG, an original member of the Faculty, and whose name indeed appears in the Charter, as already mentioned. The collector is ordered to pay her four pounds "for her supplie," and she continued a pensioner for many years, the sum being soon raised to five pounds. After this time, a pension list was made out and agreed to every year at the meeting in November, and a great many thousand pounds have been expended in charity by the Faculty since the period of its institution.

"and cease frae all using or usurpoing of the saidis airtis of Chirurgianrie or
 "Medicine within the boundis foresaidis, except they be examined be the said
 "Mr. James Hamilton. present Visitor foresaid, in the said airt and calling of
 "Chirurgianrie or Medicine. and be his bretheren in the said airt and thair
 "successors, upon their literator, knowledge, and practice,"† &c., &c.

† General decret obtained before the Lords of Councel and Session, dated 31st July, and signed 14th August, 1635.

It is not easy to ascertain, at any particular date, the precise number of members residing in Glasgow, and the number in the other towns, over which the charter gave the Faculty jurisdiction, since the whole names are never set down at the beginning of the minutes, but only the "visitor and maist of the bretheren," or "all the bretheren except" so and so, as indeed, is the method generally adopted at the present time. No doubt for a great many years, the resident members were but few in number. In the Treasurer's account for the year 1655, he charges himself with the quarter accounts of twenty-one persons, "being the number within the bounds who are burgesses and freemen." The probability is therefore that there were twenty-one resident members at that date, half-a-century after the date of the charter. In a future minute in 1656, it is stated, that being convened "the present visitor with the whole Faculty, except JAMES HAMILTON, JAMES FRANK, JAMES SCOTT, and WILLIAM SOUTER," while at the end the minute states, "likewise the whole persons present, being sixteen in number;" consequently the number of members must have been twenty only. At the beginning of the first or oldest minute book, there is a list of members as at 1st March, 1655, which contains 36 names, and in addition, 27 who are styled "strangers licentiates," among whom, there are several in Paisley, Ayr, Kilmarnock, &c. Many of these, however, are marked as having entered or been licensed subsequent to 1655, viz: 1662 and 1668.

In the year 1657, the surgeons and apothecaries of Edinburgh appear to have applied to the Protector, Cromwell, to constitute and erect a College of Physicians in that City, against which the Faculty protested, and sent two of their number as a deputation to oppose the same. There are several minutes regarding this subject, but from these, I cannot discover what effect the Faculty's opposition had. There seems, however, to be no doubt, that overtures were made to the Faculty at this time, to obtain their consent to a junction of the medical men of Glasgow with those of Edinburgh, so as to form one united association. These overtures were not favourably received by the Faculty. The minute of 8th September, 1657 states: "The said day the visitor did shawe that upon Saturday last, the Magistrates and Council did send for him, and desired he might convoke the Faculty, and demand of them whether they would adhere to the old Gift, or joyne with the present Colleg of Physicians. They did all in one voice adhere to their old

"Gift." From the wording of this minute, it might be supposed that a College of Physicians existed or was constituted at this date (1657). This was not the case, for it was a quarter of a century later before the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh was erected. It bears date 1681.

Since writing the above, I have perused a learned and very interesting paper, entitled "Sketch of the Early History of the Medical Profession in Edinburgh," read to the Royal College of Surgeons by Dr. JOHN GAIRDNER, a few weeks ago, and since published. It is there stated that several attempts, previous to the one alluded to, were made to form a Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, one in 1617, when JAMES the First of England visited Scotland; another in 1621; and a third in 1633, when CHARLES the First came to Scotland; all of which were unsuccessful. The project in CROMWELL's time, it seems, roused the opposition, not only of our Faculty, but of the Scottish Universities, particularly Aberdeen, and indeed the whole of the Surgeons in Scotland. And well it might, for it was proposed to make the Surgeons the mere drudges of the Physicians, to limit their practice to cutaneous and other external diseases, and to allow them to perform blood-letting in certain cases, and in case of necessity, to "administer a clyster" till a Physician may be had, and in short, to degrade the Surgeons to the utmost, as more fully detailed in Dr. GAIRDNER's pamphlet.

It does not appear what advantages or privileges were anticipated by either party from this proposed junction of the Edinburgh and Glasgow medical men, and it is impossible now to guess how it might have turned out; but our predecessors were unanimous in adhering to their old Gift, and repudiating any connection of this kind with their metropolitan brethren. Some two centuries later, steps were taken to bring about a similar coalition with the Faculty and the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, which, however, was equally unsuccessful.

The expenses of the commission to Edinburgh, to oppose the erection of a College of Physicians, appears from the collector's accounts to have been 130 lbs., Scots (about £10 17s., sterling), a very small sum, considering that advocates and agents in Edinburgh, were employed, and two members of Faculty went twice to Edinburgh to assist them. One item of expense is "To JAMES "LOCKHART, for his expenses in attending upon the Council of "State and Chirurgeans of Edinburgh, 12 lbs., Scots (£1 sterling), "a very moderate sum surely.

At the early period when the original Gift or Charter was obtained, it is very likely that there were some practitioners in Glasgow, who possessed foreign degrees in medicine, and who practised as Physicians. And it is also probable that, if any such entered the Faculty during the first twenty, thirty, or even fifty years, they did so in every respect in the same manner as the Surgeons or general practitioners of the town. It seems, however, to have been contemplated from the first, that some Physicians, distinct from Surgeons, should be connected with the Body, and various minutes scattered through the first fifty years appear to prove this, although I cannot find any law or regulation about them, different from what applied to all entrants alike. So early, however, as 1645, two Physicians or "professors of medicine," as they are called, were admitted freemen, and it may be noted that no examination is mentioned as having been undergone by them, a practice conform to what appears to have been adopted for many years, in admitting doctors of medicine, who, it was presumed, had already been examined as to their qualifications, before having the degree of M.D. conferred upon them. Thus the minute of 23rd January, 1645, states that Mr. ROBERT MAINE, "professor of medicine, *of his aine consent*, is admittit " freman, with the calling *conform to the patent*, wha has given his " oath, de fideli administratione, and has promised to be assisting " to the visitor and bretheren, in all things belonging to the well " of the calling, and to beir burdine with the rest," &c.; and the same day, "Mr. JAMES DUNNING, doctoor of physick, is admittit " freman, with the ealling conform to the patent;" same words as in the former ease. In like manner, many years after, the minute of 5th May 1654 bears, that "Mr. JOHN CRICHTONE, professor of " medicine, *of his aine consent*, is admittit frieman with ye calling, " *conform to the patent*," &c., &c. Besides there being no mention of any examination in these cases, there is nothing said of any fees having been paid, as is mentioned in every record of admission hitherto. From this, it may be supposed that doctors of medicine were admitted not only without examination, but without paying any entry money; and this is further probable from the circumstance that in these cases, the words "*of his aine consent*," are expressly mentioned, which do not occur in regard to the entry of the ordinary Surgeon or the Barber. There is also stated in the minutes of admission of these Physicians, that it took place "*conform to the patent*," evidently showing that the Gift originally

contemplated the admission of Physicians, and gave PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON the right to admit such, or at all events that it was so understood at the time.

There is no further information regarding the admission of Physicians as such for a number of years. But in January, 1671, there appears to have been some dispute between the Faculty and three Physicians, Dr. JOHN COLQUHOUN, Dr. MATTHEW BRISBANE and Dr. THOMAS HAMILTON, as to the privileges which they possessed in regard to the Faculty, by their doctor's degree, and whether they, as graduates of a University, had any right to the benefits conferred by King JAMES' patent on PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON. They wished to be admitted apparently on some different principle from other members, but what this was, cannot be exactly ascertained, as it is evident that some of the proceedings between the parties are not minuted. A committee of the Visitor and other three members was appointed to draw up articles of agreement, which appears to have been done and submitted to the Physicians, although these articles do not exist in the minute book at this time. There seems to have been a difference of opinion among the members of Faculty as to the question whether these Physicians should be admitted, on the ground that they had a right to the benefits of the charter, simply because they were graduates of a University, or whether they should enter as all Surgeons and other members did. These Physicians maintained (I quote their words in the minute), that they "had a right to the King's patent, as Physicians within the "borough of Glasgow." Upon this question the Faculty divided, when five voted that they had such a right; while ten voted that they had not. A vote was then taken upon the question whether they should be admitted, when by "a plurality of votes, it was carried "that the foresaid Physicians should be admitted."

There is no further notice regarding this matter in any minute; neither is there any intimation of the actual admission of these Physicians, and their names do not appear as being present at the subsequent meetings, for some years after, when another proposal was made for their admission. This was immediately after the ratification of the Gift by the Parliament of CHARLES the Second, which was obtained in September, 1672. There appears no doubt that the Faculty, by this time, were very anxious to have the concurrence and assistance of the Physicians, in some of the duties set down in the Charter, and on this occasion, they were the first to make

overtures to the same gentlemen who had applied about two years before.

The Faculty seem to have considered that it would be convenient and necessary that some pure Physicians, practising within the town, should join them "for the legal exercise of the power of visitation and other duties and privileges contained in the Gift." Accordingly, the Visitor and JOHN HALL, "late Bailie," were appointed to treat with Dr. JOHN COLQUHOUN and Dr. THOMAS HAMILTON "for concurring with the Faculty anent the regulation of medicine within their bounds, and sitting with them upon honourable terms," &c. What was meant by the "power of visitation," does not appear exactly, although the phrase is very frequently used in the minutes regarding the admission of graduates. In fact, "the right and legal exercise of the power of visitation" is the only thing mentioned in which the Faculty wished the assistance of the Physicians. It might perhaps be considered that the Corporation would become more respectable and influential, by having the highest class of medical practitioners united and incorporated with them; and it certainly appears from the minutes which follow, that the members considered the Gift contemplated some Physicians being joined with the two medical men mentioned therein. Moreover, the power "to challenge, inhibit and fine unlicensed practitioners in *medicine*," could certainly be exercised with more effect, and would be much more successful in its results, by the proposed junction of the Physicians with the Surgeons and Apothecaries. Several meetings and conferences took place with Dr. COLQUHOUN and the Committee, and articles of agreement were drawn up by the Faculty, which are detailed at great length in the minute of date 16th December, 1672. After mentioning the obtaining the Gift from King JAMES, and the Ratification thereof by the Parliament of CHARLES the Second, it is stated: "We find by express words of the sds letters of Gift and Ratification thereof, that the concurrence of some Physicians residing within the bounds specified theirintill, is enioyned and necessary (if it can be had), for the richt and legall exercise of the power of visitatione and uthir duties and priviledges contained in the said Gift, and may justlie imput to the defect thereof, the grit prejudice the countrie did and yet does sustein by the multitude of ignorant and arrogant pretenders to medicine and chirurgery, practising chirurgery and physick in contempt of the authority grantit to the said visitor

“ and his bretheren, we being therefor willing to discharg faith-
 “ fully the trust committit to us, as being now constituted in ane
 “ Corporation, according to his Majesty’s gracious intentione, for
 “ the good and advantage of his subjects, and to obviat all ob-
 “ jections or exceptions that can be made by any against the
 “ exercise of the power of visitatione; and being sufficiently per-
 “ suaded of the ability and good-will of Dr. JOHN COLQUHOUN, do
 “ earnestly entreat and desire him to take upon him, and exercise
 “ the office of visitor, conjunct with the present visitor of the
 “ chirurgians and pharmacians, as fully, fairlie, and honourably
 “ in all points as Mr. ROBERT HAMILTON did, or might have done,
 “ with Mr. PETER Low, according to the first intention of the said
 “ Gift.” The minute then goes on to authorize the Committee to
 satisfy Dr. COLQUHOUN on any scruples he may have, and to agree
 to all overtures he may make, adding the following very important
 exceptions: “ which are not destructive to the said Incorporation,
 “ or to the Ratification of the said Gift in our favours, and in par-
 “ ticular to reject the joining in of all uther Physicians within the
 “ precincts of our jurisdiction, or yet within the town, in the said
 “ union and power of visitation; since letters of graduation or se-
 “ journing within the bounds gives no right to Physicians to claim
 “ ane interest in the said Gift, but Physicians of Glasgow who are
 “ called and acknowledged as such by *the present Faculty*, in whose
 “ favours the Gift is now ratified in this current Parliament.”
 These proposals conclude with the following cautions and lawyer-
 like proviso: “ that this present invitation, and all that has followit
 “ or can follow thereupon, shall no ways for the future, prejudice
 “ us of our said Gift and Ratification thereof, in our favours.”

Dr. COLQUHOUN agreed to enter the Faculty as a Physician, and
 no kind of examination was undergone, as was the case with all
 the other candidates for admission. Indeed it plainly appears that
 the Faculty solicited Dr. COLQUHOUN to become a member; and
 that it was a mutual agreement, in which both parties expected
 some advantage. This is proved from certain conditions, which
 were drawn up and laid before the Faculty by Dr. COLQUHOUN as
 the terms upon which he would agree to enter the Corporation, and
 bear part and burden with the other members, as set down in the
 Letter or Gift upon which the Faculty was founded. All this is
 set forth at great length in the next minute of date 13th December,
 1672. These terms, sent in by Dr. COLQUHOUN, consist of seven

articles, drawn up on the part of the Physicians, which, after mature deliberation and many conferences, were finally adjusted and agreed to by the Faculty, and the two Physicians became members of Faculty accordingly.

It appears, moreover, that Dr. COLQUHOUN, as a Physician, was not only solicited to become a member of Faculty, but that he was immediately nominated, without election, to the highest position in the Corporation, or rather a new office was created for the express purpose of installing him into it. Although at first he was placed only *upon a par* with the other visitor, both having the same designation, viz:—"Physician-Visitor," and "Surgeon-Visitor," the one belonging to the Physicians, and the other to the Surgeons, it is probable that this state of matters would gradually change, and in course of time the Physician would take the precedence, under the title of Preses or President, as is the case now, and has been for many years past.

The ancient Title however of "Visitor" is still retained, and is now applied to the Vice-President. It was for a long time considered as more peculiarly connected with the Surgeons, and could be held only by a Surgeon, while the office of President was required to be filled by a Physician; but this restriction has gradually passed away.

It is worthy of remark that, in the whole terms or articles of agreement, according to which the Physicians were to join the Surgeons and Apothecaries, and in all the conferences which were held in regard to that matter, there is no mention whatever of Barbers. It is quite certain that they had no hand in the arrangement; and from the Sixth Article of the Physicians' proposals, it appears plain that the Surgeons and Apothecaries were alone to "sit in court" with the Physicians, and only a select number even of them: only such as were eligible for the office of Surgeon-Visitor. And it would appear, that for a number of years after the junction, probably so long as the Surgeons and Barbers were united, there were two Bodies meeting separately, viz.: the Physicians and Surgeons, and the Barbers and Surgeons, the Barbers never associating with the Physicians, the first body alone exercising the powers entrusted to PETER LOWE and ROBERT HAMILTON, and their successors.

Dr. COLQUHOUN held the office of Physician-Visitor for little more than a-year, for by minute of 13th February, 1674, Dr. THOMAS

HAMILTON is "received as Preses" in his place; this being the first time the term "Preses" is applied to the chief office-bearer.

After the Physicians, as such, were thus formally amalgamated with the Surgeons and Pharmacians, the Faculty continued to exercise their rights and privileges, and gradually became a large and influential Corporation. Besides looking after all who practised surgery or pharmacy within the bounds under their jurisdiction, they also exercised, in many cases, the right conferred by the Charter, to call before them persons practising *medicine* without any license or medical degree; and many of the minutes bear that such were required to grant bond not to practise *medicine* until they possessed a degree from "ane famous University where medicine is taught."

I have thus brought before you, Gentlemen, a very few of the transactions,—a very short history of the origin and early operations of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. It is merely a chapter—a preliminary chapter of the history of the Corporation. The time allotted to me, allowed only of a brief outline of the first seventy years. Believe me, there are a great many facts concerning our Corporation, very worthy to be known and remembered, which it has been impossible to bring forward, elucidating the quaint customs and manners of the medical men of the past generations—not of the whole class of Physicians and Surgeons, but of many eminent and eccentric individuals, who have been members of our Body, and have practised their profession in Glasgow and elsewhere. A future and more able historian may, perhaps, bring some of these before a similar audience to this, on some other occasion.

A P P E N D I X .

No. I.

CHARTER BY KING JAMES VI. TO THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.

JAMES, be the Grace of God, King of Scottis, to all provostis, baillies of burrowis, scheriffs, stewartis, baillies of regalities, and otheris, ministeris of justiee within the boundis following, and their deputis, and all and sundrie otheris our leigis and subditis, quhom it efferis, quhase knowledge thir our letteris sal eume, greiting, WIT ZE WE, with advise o oure counsall, understanding the grit abuis quhilk hes bene comitted in tyme bigane, and zit daylie contineius be ignorant, unskillit and unlernit personis, quha, under the collour of ehirurgianis, abuisis the pople to thair plesure, passing away but tryel or punishment, and thairby destroyis infinite number of oure subjectis, quhairwith na ordour hes bene tane in tyme bigane, specially within oure burgh and baronie of Glasgow, Renfrew, Dumbartane, and oure sheriffdomes of Cliddisdale, Renfrew, Lanark, Kyill, Carriek, Air and Cunninghame ; For avoiding of sik inconvenientis, and for gude ordoure to be tane in tyme cuming, to have made, constitutit and ordanit, and be the tenoure of thir our letteris, makis, constitutis, and ordinis Maister Peter Low, our ehirurgiane, and ehief ehirurgiane to oure dearest son the Princee, with the assistance of Mr. Robert Hamiltone, professoure of medicine, and thair suecessouris, indwelleris of our eitie of Glasgow, GEVAND and GRANTAND to thame and their suecessoures, full power to eall, sumonnd, and convenc before thame, within the said burgh of Glasgow, or onie otheris of our said burrowis or publiet places of the foirsaidis boundis, all personis professing or using the said airt of chirurgie, to examine thame upon thair literature, knowledge and practize ; gif they be fund wordie, to admit, allow and approve thame, give them testimonial aecording to the airt and knowledge that they sal be fund wordie to exereise thareftir, resave thair aithis, and authorize thame as aecordis, and to discharge thame to use onic farder nor they have knowledge passing thair capacity, laist our subjectis be abusit ; and that every ane eitat report testimonial of the minister and eldris, or magistratis of the parochin quhair they dwell, of thair life and conversatione ; and in case

they be contumax, being lauchfullie citat, everie ane to be unlawit in the soume of fortie pundis, *toties quoties*, half to the judges, other half to be disponit at the visitoures pleasure; and for payment thaireof, the said Mr. Peter and Mr. Robert, or visitoures, to have ourc uthere letteris of horning, on the partie or magistrates quhair the contemptuous personis duellis, charging thame to poind thairfoire, within twentic-four houris, under the pain of horning; and the partie not haveand geir poindable, the magistrate, under the same pain, to incarcerate thame, quhill caution responsall be fund, that the contumax persone sall compir at sik day and place as the saidis visitouris sall appoint, gevan trial of their qualifications; *Nixt*, that the saidis visitouris sall visit everie hurt, murtherit, poisonit, or onie other persoun taen awa extraordinarily, and to report to the magistrate of the fact as it is: *Thirdlie*, That it sall be leisum to the said visitouris, with the advicc of thair bretheren, to mak statutis for the comoun weill of ourc subjectis, anent the saidis artis, and using thairof faithfullie, and the braikeris thairof to be punshit and unlawit be the visitoures according to their falt: *Fourthlie*, It sall not be leisum to onie mannir of personis within the foresaidis boundis to exercise medicine without ane testimonial of ane famous universitie quhair medecine be taught, or at the leave of ourc and ourc dearest spouse chief medicinarie; and in case they failzie, it sal be lesum to the saidis visitouris to challenge, persecu and inhibitc thame throw useing and exercing of the said airt of medecine, under the pain of fourtie poundis, to be destributed, half to the judges, half to the pure, *toties quoties*, they be fund in useing and exercing the same, ay and quhill they bring sufficient testimonial as said is: *Fythlie*, That na manir of personis sell onie droggis within the citie of Glasgow, except the sam be sichtit be the saidis visitouris, and be William Spang, apothecar, under the pain of confiscatioun of the droggis: *Sextlie*, That nane sell ratoun poison, asenick, or sublemate, under the pane of ane hundert merkis, excep onlie the apothecaries quha sall be bund to tak caution of the byaris, for coist, skaith, and damage: *Seventlie*, Yat the saidis visitouris, with thair bretherene and successouris, sall convene every first Mononday of ilk moneth at sum convenient place, to visite and give counsell to pure disaisit folkis gratis: And, *last of all*, Gevand and grantand to the saidis visitouris indwellers of Glasgow, professouris of the saidis airtis, and thair bretherene, p^{nt} and to cum, immunite and exemptione from all wappin shawengis, raidis, oistis, beiring of armour, watching, weirding, stenting taxationis, passing on assises, inquestis, justice courtis, scherriff or burrow courtis, in actiounes criminal or cival, notwithstanding of ourc actis, lawis, and constitutionis thairoff, except in geving yairr counsell in materis appertaiuing to the saidis airtis: ORDAIN-ING you, all the foresaidis provestis baillies of burrowis, sheriffs, stewartis, baillies of regalities, and otheris ministeris of justice, within the saidis boundis, and zoure deputis, to assist, fortifie, coneur and defend the saidis

visitouris, and thair posterior, professouris of the foresaidis airtis, and put the saidis aetis maid and to be maid to executioun; and that oure otheris letteris of our Sessioun be granted thereupon to echarge thame to that effect within twentie four houris nixt after they be echargit thairto. GEVIN under oure previe seill, at Haliruid house, the penult day of November, the zeir of God jave. and fourscore ninetein zeiris, and of oure regnn the threttie thre zeir.

*Per Signaturam manu S.
D. N. Regis, nec non mani-
bus Dominorum
Ducis Lennocis,* Thesaurarii†
ac Secretarii‡ Dicti Domini
Regis Subscriptum.*

(The above Charter is titled thus)

*Litera Mag^{ri} Petri Low, Chirurgi,
Et Mag^{ri} Roberti Hamillone, Pro-
fessoris Medicince.*



(Written on the baek thus)

Written to the Privie Seil, Penult Novemb^r 1599.

J. HAY.

No. II.

RATIFICATION OF KING JAMES' CHARTER TO THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.

AT Edinburgh, the elevent day of September one thousand six hundreth seventie-two years, OUR SOVERANE LORD, with adviee and conseut of his Estates of Parliament, now presentlie conveened be his Majestie's speciall authoritie, hes RATIFIED AND APPROVEN, and be thir presents ratifies and approves ane Letter of Gift past under the privy seal of the date at Halyrudehouse, the penult day of November 1599 years, whereby his Majestie's grandfather, of blessed memorie, for avoyding of ineonveniences, and for good order to be tane in tyme comeing, within the burgh and barronie of Glasgow, gave and granted full power to the ehirurgeaus and

* Ludovick, Duke of Lennox, Lord Great Chamberlain.

† Lord Elphinstone, Lord Treasurer.

‡ Sir James Elphinstone, afterwards Lord Balmerino, Lord Secretary.

professors of medicine within the city of Glasgow for the tyme, and their successors, to call and convene before them within the said burgh of Glasgow, or any other place of the bounds foresaid, contained in the said Gift, all persones professing or using the art of chirurgerie, to examine them upon their literature, knowledge, and praetice; if they be fund wordie, to admit, allow and approve them, give them testimoniell according to their arte and knowledge to exerce thereafter, receive their oaths, and authorise them as accords; and that it shall not be leisum to any maner of persons within the forsaid bounds, to exerce medecine, without ane testimoniell of ane famous universitie, wher medecine is taught, or at leist the persons above mentioned, and their successors, under the pains contained in the said Gift; and that no maner of persons sell any drogs within the city of Glasgow, except they be sighted be the forsaid persons, under the paine of confiscation of the drogs; and that no ratton poyson be sold, except by the apothecaries, who shall be bund to take caution of the buyers, for coast, skaith, and damage, as the said Letter of Gift, in the selft at more length proports, IN THE HAIL HEIDS, elauses, artieles, and eireumstanees of the samen, and after the forme and tenor thair of, in all points, in so far as the samen Gift, and this present Ratification therof, can be extendit in favours of the present chirurgians, apothecaries and barbours within the said burgh of Glasgow, and their successors allcnerlie, and no further: And his Majestie and Estates of Parliament, wills, grants and declares, that this present generall Ratification shall be als valeid and suffieient to the said chirurgians apothecaries and Barbours, and their successors allcnerlie, as said is, as if the said Gift wer word be word heir engrossed, notwithstanding the samen be not so done, wherewith his Majestie and Estates of Parliament hes dispensid, and be thir presents dispenses forever.

Extracted furth of the Records of Parliament be me, Sir ARCHIBALD PRIMROSE, of Cairntoun, Knight and Barronet, Clerk to his Majestie's Councell, Registers and Rolls.

(Signed)

A. PRIMROSE.
Clr. Reg.

